Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently amended) A method for converting a source string comprising a plurality of source characters into a target string, the source string being encoded according to a source encoding scheme and the target string being desired to be encoded according to mixed codepages comprising a plurality of sub-codepages, the method comprising the steps of:

    associating a predetermined processing priority with each sub-codepage yielding a processing priority sequence; and

    converting the characters strictly according to said priority sequence by one or more invocations of a hardware instruction for converting a source string of characters to a target string of characters, each such invocation of said hardware instruction having as arguments a string of said source characters and a table for converting between said source characters and target characters in accordance with one of said sub-codepages, each such invocation of said hardware instruction continuing to process a string of source characters until it encounters a character that cannot be converted using a single hardware instruction capable of processing a plurality of characters in a single invocation of the instruction.

2. (Original) The method according to claim 1 in which the priority sequence reflects the probability of finding a source character in one of said sub-codepages.

3. (Original) The method according to claim 1 further comprising the step of

    accessing the sub-codepage having the highest priority which has not yet been accessed for a character if said character has not been found in the current sub-codepage.

4. (Cancelled)

5.   (Original) The method according to claim 1 in which said priority sequence is dynamically changed from a standard to an individual setting before running the code conversion.

6.   (Original) A computer system having installed program means for performing the steps of a method according to claim 1.

7.   (Original) The computer system according to claim 6 arranged for being used as an Internet server having installed program means for performing said method steps.

8.   (Original) A chip means comprising hardware circuits implementing at least parts of the steps of a method according to claim 1.

9.   (Original) A device comprising the chip according to claim 8.

10.   (Previously presented) A computer program on a computer-readable medium for execution in a data processing system comprising computer program code for performing respective steps of the method according to claim 1.

11.   (Original) The computer program according to claim 10 comprising a browser program.

12.   (Original) A computer program product stored on a computer usable medium comprising computer readable program means for causing a computer to perform the method of claim 1.

13.   (Original) The method according to claim 1 in which said source encoding scheme is a Unicode encoding scheme.

14.   (Previously presented) A method for converting a source string comprising a plurality of source characters into a target string, the source string being encoded according to a

source encoding scheme and the target string being encoded according to mixed codepages comprising a plurality of sub-codepages, the method comprising the steps of:

associating a predetermined priority with each of said sub-codepages to produce a priority sequence ranging from a highest-priority sub-codepage to a lowest-priority sub-codepage, said sub-codepages other than said highest-priority sub-codepage comprising a first set of one or more higher-priority sub-codepages and a second set of one or more lower-priority sub-codepages; and

converting the characters according to said priority sequence by performing the following steps:

(1)   initially selecting the highest-priority sub-codepage as a current sub-codepage;

(2)   converting characters using the current sub-codepage;

(3)   if a character is encountered that is not contained in the current sub-codepage, then searching the other sub-codepages in priority order for a sub-codepage containing the character;

(4)   if the character is found in a sub-codepage belonging to the first set of sub-codepages, continuing with conversion with that sub-codepage as the current sub-codepage; and

(5)   if the character is found in a sub-codepage belonging to the second set of sub-codepages, converting the character using that sub-codepage and continuing with conversion with the highest-priority sub-codepage as the current sub-codepage.

15.   (Previously presented) The method according to claim 14 in which the priority sequence reflects the probability of finding a source character in one of said sub-codepages.

16.   (Previously presented) The method according to claim 14 in which said priority sequence is dynamically changed from a standard to an individual setting before running the code conversion.

17.   (Previously presented) A computer system having installed program means for performing the steps of a method according to claim 14.

18.   (Previously presented) A chip means comprising hardware circuits implementing at least parts of the steps of a method according to claim 14.

19.   (Previously presented) A computer program product stored on a computer usable medium comprising computer readable program means for causing a computer to perform the method of claim 14.

20.   (Previously presented) The method according to claim 14 in which said source encoding scheme is a Unicode encoding scheme.